

Rohingya in humanitarian crisis, says UN

15th September, 2017



The United Nations has said Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar are facing a "catastrophic" humanitarian situation. Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have fled from Myanmar over the border to Bangladesh. The UN Secretary-General,

Antonio Guterres, said the Rohingya are escaping continued attacks from Myanmar security forces. Over 379,000 Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh since violence began last month. The BBC reports that whole villages have burned down. The Myanmar army denies it is targeting the Rohingya. The Rohingya are a mostly Muslim people who live in the state of Rakhine in Myanmar. They have lived there for generations, but Myanmar says they are illegal immigrants.

Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi is under pressure to act over the Rohingya. Many people are calling for her to be stripped of her Nobel Peace Prize, which she won in 1991. They say she cannot keep the prize while journalists are reporting 'ethnic cleansing' of the Rohingya in her country. Ms Suu Kyi has not condemned the attacks on the Rohingya. Bangladesh's Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, has asked Myanmar to take the Rohingya refugees back. However, the Myanmar army said Myanmar could not accept them back. A spokesman said: "Rakhine ethnics (Buddhists) are our indigenous people who had long been living in Rakhine since the time of their forefathers."

Sources: dw.com / voanews.com / bbc.com

Writing

The world never dies enough to help helpless people. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

United Nations / catastrophic / border / attacks / violence / villages / immigrants / under pressure / calling / ethnic cleansing / refugees / indigenous / spokesman

True / False

- The UN says the Rohingya people are facing a catastrophe. T / F
- A million Rohingya have escaped over the Bangladesh border. T / F
- The BBC said entire villages were destroyed by fire. T / F
- The Myanmar government said the Rohingya are illegal immigrants. T / F
- Aung San Suu Kyi has lost her Nobel Peace Prize. T / F
- Journalists in Myanmar are reporting about ethnic cleansing. T / F
- Bangladesh's leader doesn't want to send the Rohingya back. T / F
- The Myanmar army said the Rohingya are indigenous to the country. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. catastrophic | a. take steps |
| 2. fled | b. ancestors |
| 3. continued | c. rejects |
| 4. denies | d. tragic |
| 5. generations | e. representative |
| 6. act | f. ongoing |
| 7. journalists | g. original |
| 8. spokesman | h. a long time |
| 9. indigenous | i. reporters |
| 10. forefathers | j. escaped |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about this news?
- What do you know about the Rohingya?
- How can this kind of thing happen in the year 2017?
- What do you think it's like to flee your country?
- What can the United Nations do about this problem?
- Why can't Buddhists and Muslims live together in Myanmar?
- What should the Myanmar government do about this situation?
- What advice do you have for the Rohingya in Myanmar?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. facing a "catastrophic" humanitarian | a. burned down |
| 2. fled from Myanmar over the | b. immigrants |
| 3. The BBC reports that whole villages have | c. back |
| 4. They have lived there for | d. situation |
| 5. Myanmar says they are illegal | e. cleansing |
| 6. under pressure | f. border to Bangladesh |
| 7. ethnic | g. the attacks |
| 8. Ms Suu Kyi has not condemned | h. generations |
| 9. take the Rohingya refugees | i. people |
| 10. indigenous | j. to act |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How much pressure is Ms Suu Kyi under?
- Should Aung San Suu Kyi be stripped of her Nobel Peace Prize?
- What do you think of the term 'ethnic cleansing'?
- How much should Myanmar's neighbours help the Rohingya?
- Should only indigenous people be allowed to live in a country?
- What will life be like for the Rohingya in 10 years from now?
- What questions would you like to ask Aung San Suu Kyi?

Spelling

- over the drbeor to Bangladesh
- attacks from Myanmar iescyutr forces
- since clevonie began last month
- The Myanmar army edneis it is
- They have lived there for rgaetieonsn
- they are ilagell immigrants
- under rsuspeer to act
- while nartsslojui are reporting
- chitne cleansing
- odndcmeen the attacks
- take the Rohingya egseruef back
- dusniegon people

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. j	3. f	4. c	5. h
6. a	7. i	8. e	9. g	10. b

Role Play

Role A – Bangladesh

You think Bangladesh can help the Rohingya most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their countries / groups. Also, tell the others which is the least able of these (and why): the United Nations, Myanmar or the USA.

Role B – The United Nations

You think the United Nations can help the Rohingya most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their countries / groups. Also, tell the others which is the least able of these (and why): Bangladesh, Myanmar or the USA.

Role C – Myanmar

You think Myanmar can help the Rohingya most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their countries / groups. Also, tell the others which is the least able of these (and why): the United Nations, Bangladesh or the USA.

Role D – The USA

You think the USA can help the Rohingya most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their countries / groups. Also, tell the others which is the least able of these (and why): the United Nations, Myanmar or Bangladesh.

Speaking – Help

Rank these with your partner. Put those who can help the Rohingya most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|----------------------|
| • the USA | • Bangladesh |
| • Thailand | • Myanmar's army |
| • India | • Aung San Suu Kyi |
| • China | • the United Nations |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.